

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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THE HIGH ROAD OR THE LOW? World civilization has been slipping downhill since World War I. Secretary of State George Marshall urges America's young people to join in the extremely difficult task of getting it back on the upward climb.

World In Testing Period

Five Momentous Developments of Our Time Offer as Great a Challenge to American Citizens and Leaders As They Have Ever Faced in the Past

SECRETARY of State George C. Marshall recently delivered an address in which he called upon the students of America to take an active part in helping to solve the problems of their country. He said it was not enough for them to be mildly interested spectators, watching the unfolding drama of national and world events. They must actually participate in the work of government. They must study and think and prepare themselves to assist in guiding the nation through a critical period.

This was no ordinary appeal meant for ordinary times. It was made by the man who commanded our armies in the greatest of all wars, by the man who is now responsible for the conduct of our international affairs, a man who knows, as few do, what is going on in the world; who understands how full of peril, and also of opportunity, life is today in this shrinking, changing, suffering world.

What are these perils and opportunities of present-day life? To answer that question we must get down to particulars, and obtain an overall view of the great movements now sweeping across the earth. We may then have a better idea of the responsibilities we face at this most dramatic moment of human history.

A survey of the world will disclose the fact that five developments of historic importance are now under way; developments so significant that any one of them, if it appeared alone, would characterize these years as a truly dramatic age. Here they are:

1. Civilization is declining throughout most of the world. For a third of a century the trend outside the Western Hemisphere has been downhill. The signs by which we judge the quality of a civilization have pointed in the wrong direction. Standards of

living have fallen almost everywhere in Europe and Asia. Millions of people, formerly comfortable, are living as primitively as their ancestors did centuries ago. Business is at a low level. It is hard to travel or ship goods across national boundaries.

Education in the Old World is declining. The people of many nations have lost their liberties, democracy has lost ground. Millions live in insecurity and fear.

It should be emphasized that this downward trend has been under way for quite a while. In March, 1938, just nine years ago, Elmer Davis, writing in *Harper's*, said:

He who has a thousand friends
Has not a friend to spare
And he who has one enemy
Will meet him everywhere.

This discouraging bit of philosophy has come down to us through the centuries. In a slightly different form it was written by Mahomet's son-in-law, Abi Ben Abou Taleb, 1300 years ago. One reason it has survived the ages is that it contains a good-sized kernel of truth.

E. A. Ross, the sociologist, explains how it comes about that one enemy can do a lot of harm, and that many friends are needed to counteract his evil influence. Hostility, he says, spreads more rapidly than friendliness and sympathy.

If someone speaks well of you the person who hears the favorable report may be mildly interested, but he accepts it as a matter of course. He doesn't hurry away to tell his friends what a good fellow you are.

"Spiritually and morally civilization collapsed on August 1, 1914—the civilization in which people now middle aged grew up, a culture which, with all its shortcomings, did give more satisfaction to more people than any other yet evolved."

Mr. Davis continued: "Since 1914 we have slipped back as far perhaps as the Romans slipped between the Antonine age and the days of Alexander Severus. It is a long way; but the Rome of Alexander would have looked like paradise to the Romans who lived under Constantine—and still they kept on slipping. So may

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Not One Friend to Spare

By Walter E. Myer

But let some ill-disposed individual tell a scandalous story about you—let him report some wrongful act which, in an unguarded moment, you may have committed. Eyebrows will then be raised in excited concern. Here is a bit of gossip, something interesting, something which seems worth repeating, and soon the story is all over town.

The idea can, of course, be carried too far. Your true friends will stick to you through thick and thin. They will not listen to ill-founded charges against you. Still less will they repeat these stories. It is a fact, however, that anyone's enemies frequently have a hearing, justly or unjustly, and that fact may as well be recognized.

The moral is that you should, so far as possible, avoid making enemies. Many people are careless on that point. "I don't care what he thinks of me," you may say, and so you needlessly antagonize those who might be your friends. This may not seem important to you now, especially if you have many

Greek Decision Requires Speed

Britain's Inability to Remain In the Country Poses Problem for Us

WHAT should the United States do about Greece? American leaders have faced tough decisions before, but seldom have they confronted a question more fateful than this one. A good deal more than the future of the Greek people is at stake; the answer may be a turning point for us and for the rest of the world as well.

When the British announced that they could no longer afford to keep troops in Greece, President Truman and Congress immediately went into action to decide what our policy should be. Leaders of both parties met at the White House to discuss every angle of this all-important problem. All members of Congress were impressed with the urgent need to reach hasty decisions on such questions as these:

Should we let Britain step out and leave the Greeks to shift for themselves? Or should we try to influence the course of their affairs?

If we decide to take an active role in Greece, should we work through the British or use our own troops? How much money should we invest in the country? What should we demand in return for our financial outlays? These are the main issues involved in the overall problem.

The future of Greece has been one of the big question marks in international affairs ever since the war years. Even before the Nazi invaders were driven out, the Greeks began to fight bitterly among themselves.

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Walter E. Myer

friends. But crises may come and then you will need all the friends you can win and keep.

The time may come when you cannot avoid giving offense. If a principle is at stake you naturally hold to your course even though your action may turn certain persons against you. But never make an enemy capriciously. Don't participate in a quarrel unless some good result will come from such action. By being reasonable, cooperative, and tactful you can ordinarily avoid antagonism and hostility.

While avoiding enmity, build up your friendships. Remember that "He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare." Remember also Polonius' advice to his son:

"The friends thou hast and their adoption tried,
"Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel."

Troubled Greece

(Concluded from page 1)

The radicals and Communists, who favor swift and sweeping changes for their country, formed into one camp. The conservatives and moderates, who want to move more slowly in making political and industrial changes, opposed the radicals.

The British came into Greece before the war ended and they have been trying ever since to settle the conflict between the opposing groups. Their efforts have met with little success. Although the present government came into power as the result of an election, it is too weak to stand on its own feet. Armed members of the radical movement have tried again and again to overthrow it, and British troops remain the only bulwark against open civil war.

Some say that Britain is to blame for this situation. They charge that the British have never tried to arrange a real compromise between the radicals and other groups. Instead, the accusation runs, they have openly supported the king and his conservative followers while opposing everyone who disagreed with them.

Those who see Greece's troubles from this point of view are ready to condemn Britain on other counts as well. They say that the British did everything they could in Greece to make sure that the conservatives won the elections and that the king returned to his throne. They say the present government is not only undemocratic but it is doing very little to improve the miserable conditions which all Greeks but the very rich endure.

Britain, for her part, blames the Communists and their followers. She



KING GEORGE II returned to Greece about six months ago

brands everyone in this group as lawless and bent on setting up a Communist dictatorship in Greece. She strongly contends that the elections and the vote on the king's return were fairly conducted. As she sees it, all the difficulty stems from the refusal of radical leaders to cooperate under a democratic system.

Britain, of course, has never tried to hide the fact that she does not want the Communists to control the government of Greece. She knows that Russia has always wanted a firm foothold on the Mediterranean, and she realizes that if the Greek radicals and Communists gain power, their country would undoubtedly fall into the Russian sphere of influence.

Such a development would be a serious challenge to Britain's inter-



THE CRITICAL SITUATION in Greece is a challenge to American leadership

ests in the Mediterranean. It would also greatly strengthen Russia's position in this whole region. Some observers go so far as to predict that a pro-Russian government in Greece might pave the way for the triumph of communism in all the countries of southern Europe and the Middle East.

These considerations are important to the United States as well as to Britain. Believing in democracy, we do not want to see communism extend its strength in Europe and the Middle East. Furthermore, we have pledged ourselves to see that the small countries of Europe have a chance to live under democratic governments.

Yet, on the other hand, the United States has always followed the policy of staying out of the affairs of other countries wherever possible. The American people and leaders have feared that any other policy would mean a heavy drain on their national resources, and an increased danger of conflict with other powers as well.

What, therefore, is the answer in the case of Greece? As this question has been debated up and down the nation, opinions have grouped themselves into three major arguments.

One school of thought says simply, "Hands off!" The people who take such a position argue in this way:

"We cannot have anything to do with the situation in Greece. First of all, it would cost too much for us to shoulder Britain's burden. We have been through a terrible war which has drawn heavily on our national treasury. Now we are trying to balance our budget at home, to reduce our huge government debt, and get back to normal. We need all our funds for that.

"Besides, going into Greece would make dangerous enemies for us. Many Greek people and their sympathizers in all other small nations of the world would accuse us of being 'imperialists.' Worse still, the Russians would feel that we were interfering in Greece at the very time we were insisting that they not do so. We have enough differences with Russia as things stand; we cannot afford to antagonize her on new grounds.

"We saw our danger in China and took a wise course when we withdrew. There have been no bad results since we left the Chinese to settle their own problems and there will be none if we permit the Greeks to do the same thing. We should, of course, make it clear that we will oppose to the last ditch any Russian interference in Greece or China."

A second group in our country urges that we merely supply Britain with enough money to continue carrying out her present policies in Greece. "The British have done a good job in Greece," this group contends, "and it is to our interest to let them go on with it." The argument continues in this way:

"Greece is a little island of Western power in a swelling sea of Soviet influence. If Britain leaves, Russia will surely move in. Then, one after another, the countries of Western Europe and the Middle East will join Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and all the other puppets of Soviet Russia. Soon Britain and the Western Hemisphere will stand alone against a Communist world.

"There are good reasons for criticizing the present government in Greece, but it is the only government which can prevent the Communists from taking over."

The third school of American thought has a completely different solution for the problem. This group says that we should go into Greece with a promise of real democracy for

the people of that land. As they put it, "We should supervise a new election immediately and use our money and troops to install a really democratic government.

"We should make it clear that we are interested only in promoting Greek democracy. If Britain and Russia will cooperate with us—fine. If it can be done through the United Nations—better still. But if other countries will not agree to our plan, we should do the job alone.

"Once we have given Greece a truly representative government we should help the Greek people toward prosperity by sending in food and technical advisers who can assist them in developing their resources. After conditions are stable, we should withdraw our own troops.

"If we had given this kind of support to democracy in Germany and Italy after World War I, there probably would have been no Mussolini or Hitler and no World War II. The only way to promote peace and democracy is to give foreign people a chance to live comfortably under a democratic system. The kind of misery which now prevails in Greece is always an invitation to war or revolution.

"It will take both money and troops to carry out such a plan. Britain has kept between 10,000 and 20,000 troops in Greece ever since the end of the war, and we would need at least as many to take care of the situation. The money cost will be equally high—estimates run as high as \$350 million a year for three years.

"The important thing is not how much we spend, but what we get for our outlay. If we can transform Greece into a democratic, peace-loving country, and if we can check the growth of communism, our efforts and expenditures will be well repaid."

These are the chief points of view toward Greece in the United States today. One of them—or a compromise solution—will be the American policy of tomorrow. Whatever decision is made will influence the future of our country and the world.

SMILES

A story is told about the irate wife of a film star who had gone fishing and left her alone. A friend called to see her husband, and the wife told him, "Just go down to the bridge and look around until you find a pole with a worm at each end."

He: "But dear, don't you want to marry an economical man?"
She: "I suppose so, but it sure is terrible being engaged to one."

"These auto engineers are certainly making driving easier in these times."
"What do you mean?"
"Well, in 1941 there was no gear shift. In 1942 there was no running board, and in 1947 no car."

When the King of England takes a journey on a ship he takes 1,500 golf balls with him. It is reported that he has not yet been able to hit the ocean.

"I hope you paid your taxes with a smile last week."
"I wanted to, but the man insisted on cash."

The mathematics professor retired from teaching and moved to a cottage by the sea which he called After Math.

Little boy (visiting next-door neighbor): "Could I see your pan that died?"
Lady: "I don't know what you mean."
Little boy: "Well, my mother says that you have a dead pan."

The world's worst golfer said to his caddy, after an especially trying hole, "The only reason I play this game is to develop self-control."

"If that's what you want, sir," the caddy replied, "you ought to try caddy-ing."

A radio quiz master says he has discovered the longest word in the English language. It's the one which comes after the sentence, "And now, a word from our sponsor."



Oh, here's where the error is. You earn \$4,000, not \$40,000.

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Stassen of Minnesota," by Roscoe Drummond, *American Mercury*.

Harold Stassen of Minnesota is a man who has violated all the traditional rules of politics. Instead of keeping up a pretense of aloofness, he has announced frankly that he wants to be a Presidential candidate in 1948. Instead of trying not to offend anybody by voicing definite opinions, he has let the world know just where he stands on major issues. Instead of running for the Senate so he could keep himself constantly in the public eye, he has avoided political office in order to equip himself to make the best possible President.

Will this unusual strategy work? There are a great many considerations which argue that it won't. Stassen's independence has made enemies



HAROLD STASSEN. His political strategy is unusual—but successful

for him in the Republican Party's lost command. His bluntness has lost him possible supporters among the voting public.

But Stassen has shown himself to be a man of courage and vision—qualities all Americans admire. He himself thinks his chances are good. He has succeeded every time he has tried for a political prize up to now. He could do it again.

"Japanese Empress Studies Under Son's U. S. Tutor," by Margaret Parton, *New York Herald-Tribune*.

Mrs. Elizabeth Vining, the American woman who began teaching English to the crown prince of Japan last autumn, has been so successful that the young prince's mother has decided to take lessons too. "She has a quick mind," Mrs. Vining says of the empress. "She learns swiftly, and remembers what she learns."

The American teacher is also well pleased with the progress which Prince Akihito is making in learning English. She is looking forward to the time when she can hold fluent conversations with him in our language. There are many ideas about democracy and good government which she would like to explain to this future emperor of Japan. She is also anxious to introduce him to American and English literature.

In addition to the private lessons for the empress and Akihito, Mrs. Vining gives English lessons at a few schools in and near the Japanese capital city. She lives in a 10-room house

at the edge of Tokyo. The Japanese government, which employs her, furnishes her a car, servants, and some food. She gets additional food and other supplies from the American commissary and post exchange.

"Our Peacetime Army," editorial, *Washington News*.

After World War I, it cost less than \$2,000 to maintain a soldier in the Army's occupation forces for a year. Today the average cost is well over \$11,000, if we count later payments to the soldier under the GI Bill of Rights.

One reason why present-day occupation soldiers are so expensive is the 18-month enlistment law. When a man enlists for 18 months, the Army really gets only about half that time. Training, furloughs, and travel take the rest. If the Army were to go back to the old three-year-minimum enlistment policy, the cost per man would be reduced to \$6,000 a year. The Army would get about 27 months of overseas service from each man, and maintenance costs would actually decrease because of being spread out over a longer period.

A three-year-enlistment system would have other advantages too. For one thing, it would give the services better trained men. It is hard to turn a raw recruit into a seasoned military expert in a year and a half. In three years, however, the rookie becomes a real soldier.

"How Real Income of Employees Has Changed," *Business Week*.

Wartime's high wages and long hours of work boosted the average American's living standard considerably between 1939 and 1945. But then last year prices took a drastic upswing. There was less overtime work and consequently a smaller pay check for the laboring man. "Real income"—the actual buying power of wages and salaries—dropped.

Here is how real income has changed for some of the major groups in the country's population: Farmers have fared best of all. Between 1938 and the middle of 1945, their real income went up 96 per cent. It is down somewhat now, but they are still 91 per cent better off than they were in 1938.

At the other end of the scale are



TOWN MEETINGS were a cornerstone of democracy in the early days of our republic. Even now, meetings like this one in Dunbarton, New Hampshire, are held. At some, local citizens actually make decisions on community problems. At others, they discuss local and national issues as a background for intelligent voting. More of these town meetings are urgently needed.

the nation's school teachers. Their real income has been falling steadily until today it is 20 per cent below the 1938 level.

In between are several groups which just about break even. Real incomes of automobile workers went up 17 per cent between 1939 and 1945, but they fell 13 per cent in 1946, leaving the auto workers with only a small net gain.

Workers in printing and publishing saw their real incomes rise seven per cent between 1939 and 1945, but fall one per cent in 1946.

Public utilities employees gained five per cent in real income between 1939 and 1945, but lost six in 1946. Today they are two per cent behind their 1939 real income.

"A Broader Foundation for the South," editorial, *Augusta Chronicle*.

The war did a great deal to change the South. New industries sprang up, new methods were tried, and the people learned that they did not have to depend upon the limited number of products and enterprises which had given them their livelihood in pre-war years.

Some of the South's war-born industries have folded up with the return of peace, but a good many are there to stay. If they can flourish and expand, they will give this region

the foundation of lasting prosperity and progress. The South has considerable natural wealth. Once its people learn to develop their resources fully, they can look forward to a bright future.

"Democracy in Our Town," by John Kord Lagemann, *Collier's*.

For almost 200 years, the second Tuesday in March has been "town meeting day" to hundreds of New Englanders. On this occasion, the people of each village gather to talk over community problems and make plans for the year ahead.

Weeks in advance, the local selectmen (a small group of elected officials) arrange for each citizen to see a report of how the town's tax money has been spent. The villagers are also informed about the issues which will come up for consideration at the next meeting, so they will have a chance to study them.

When the big day arrives, men, women, and young people file into the meeting and get down to business. Anyone can state his opinion on the problems before the group. Then, when all views have been heard, the adults vote. Whatever the majority of them decide becomes town policy for the year. In between town meetings, the selectmen handle civic business.

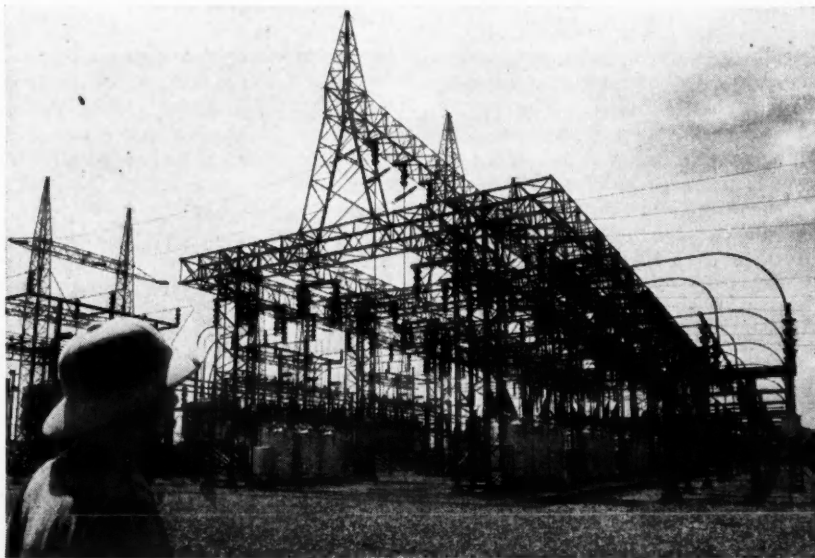
This is democracy in its purest form. Every man is his own representative; every man has a hand in shaping the affairs of his government, and the majority rules. The town meeting has an honored place in the American tradition.

As March winds blow out, so will the draft law. At the end of this month, the law which required able-bodied young men to serve in the armed forces will come to an end. From then on, the Army and Navy will have to attract volunteers.

Conscience.

Around the circle of the clock,
Around the repetitious year,
And through all door or bar or lock,
There is one voice I always hear.
It does not speak in silken tone,
Nor yet in loud and stern address,
But when I walk in doubt alone,
It whispers "no" and "yes."

—J. S. Moody.



WAR STIMULATED the growth of industry in the South. Electric power developments are playing an important part in business expansion.

The Story of the Week

Conflict in Philippines

The Hukbalahaps—Huks, for short—are still active in the Philippines. Ever since the islands became an independent republic, this group of poor farmers has carried on a small-scale warfare against the government. They are fighting primarily for land reform—a division of the large rice estates into small, independent farms.

The Huks took their long name from words of a Philippine dialect which mean "People's Army Against the Japanese." In the beginning the Huks' fight was against the Japanese conquerors. When the Pacific war ended, however, the Huks refused to surrender their weapons to the central government. They demanded land reforms, and, when their demands were not met, they continued to use their guns.

Manuel Roxas, Philippine President, has said that the Huk revolt has been crushed. But James Halsema, an American newspaper correspondent, recently traveled through Huk territory, and reports that the movement is still active.

He says that Huks hold a large area in central Luzon, one of the principal islands in the Philippine chain. Brief but bitter fighting breaks out along the boundaries of this area when government troops or the private armies of the estate owners attempt to enter.

South Pole Discoveries

Admiral Byrd and the Navy Expedition to the Antarctic are bringing back discoveries of the South Polar regions which will be the basis of



SOON WE WILL SWING into the 1947 baseball season, and professional teams will wind up their spring training. Here, Lou Boudreau (left) and Joe Gordon of the Cleveland Indians work out at the team's training camp in Tucson, Arizona.

scientific investigation for some time to come.

During this trip the Navy mapped out 300,000 square miles of Antarctica, one third of which man had never before seen. New bays, peninsulas and islands were found. The most important addition to existing maps will be the two ice-free areas of land, with warm water lakes nearby. New mountain ranges were also found—some higher than any within the United States and several with peaks completely free of ice and snow.

Admiral Byrd believes that the discovery of the warm lakes may be one of the most important of the entire trip. Many photographs were taken of this area, and some of the pilots who flew over it think that coal may be there.

The weather experts who accompanied the expedition have added to their knowledge of the ocean currents around the Antarctic continent and will use this new data to study the effects of polar weather on atmospheric conditions in the rest of the world. Another important finding has been that airplanes and other heavy equipment can be made to operate in extreme cold. Large transport planes were used successfully for the first time in that area.

Baseball Season Near

Not so very many years ago all the major league baseball teams held their spring training in Florida. But this southern state is no longer sole host to the diamond stars. This year two teams are training outside the continental United States—the Brooklyn Dodgers in Havana, Cuba, and the New York Yankees in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Arizona and California, too, are beginning to attract big name teams. The New York Giants are training in Phoenix, and the Cleveland Indians in Tucson. The Chicago Cubs are at Catalina, off the California coast, and the Chicago White Sox are at Pasadena, California.

Most ball clubs, however, still do their training in Florida. The Cincinnati Reds are at Tampa, Philadelphia Phillies at Clearwater, Pitts-

burgh Pirates at Miami Beach, St. Louis Browns at Miami, Boston Braves at Fort Lauderdale, Philadelphia Athletics at West Palm Beach, Boston Red Sox at Sarasota, Detroit Tigers at Lakeland, St. Louis Cardinals at St. Petersburg, Washington Senators at Orlando.

Two Key Posts

Two men have been receiving attention in the news because of their recent selection for jobs of international importance. They are Lewis W. Douglas, chosen by President Truman to be U. S. Ambassador to Britain, and John J. McCloy, newly elected President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Douglas, a native of Arizona, has had experience as a government official, school administrator, and businessman. While a Congressman some years ago, he used to ride to work on a bicycle. He served as Director of the Budget during the first part of President Roosevelt's administration, then disagreed with Roosevelt and resigned.

Later, Mr. Douglas was vice chancellor of a Canadian university, and then head of a large life insurance company in the United States. During the war he worked with the U. S. War Shipping Administration.

The agency which Mr. McCloy has been chosen to lead, popularly called the World Bank, was set up in 1944 to lend to nations for reconstruction purposes. It has had two presidents, both Americans. The reason for this is that the United States is the bank's largest contributor.

Mr. McCloy is a New York lawyer. From 1941 to 1945 he served the United States as Assistant Secretary of War.

Hands Across the Sea

Jacques Smidt, a fourteen-year-old boy who lives in Antwerp, Belgium, lost his right foot when a German V-bomb fell on his city. His father was killed and his mother now works as a charwoman to support Jacques and his young sister. Miserable living conditions are impairing Jacques'

health, and he may be forced to leave school.

All over Europe there are thousands of boys and girls like Jacques. Would you like to help him and other high school youths who are struggling to complete their education against the terrible odds of hunger, cold, and sickness?

The 1,300 students of Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D. C., recently collected \$800 for packages of food to be sent to students in Poland, Norway, Greece, Belgium, and Austria. These packages have been distributed by CARE, a non-profit organization through which individuals, groups, and organizations can order food or blankets for delivery to persons in war-torn lands.

The food box contains over 21 pounds of canned meat, flour, dried eggs and milk, soap, fruit and other needed items. The blanket parcel contains two all-wool U. S. Army surplus blankets together with needles and thread for sewing them into coats and suits.

Each package costs \$10, and CARE guarantees delivery to an individual or family. Many of the foreigners who received CARE packages have written to the Americans who sent them, and international correspondence has been started by these gifts. Further information can be obtained by writing to CARE, 50 Broad Street, New York 4, N. Y.

Chiang's Gamble

Chiang Kai-shek is increasing his efforts to crush fighting Communist opponents of his government. He is taking troops out of southern and western China and throwing them against Communist armies in the north. This is considered by some observers to be a risky step. They say that after Nationalist soldiers leave the southern and western regions, poverty-stricken peasants in these areas may rise in revolt against Chiang's government.

The danger of such revolts calls attention to the miserable living conditions of the Chinese people. Poverty makes many of them willing to join the Communist forces. Some ob-



A LIFESAVER. This new outfit is a regulation suit for altitude flying; it has a life vest for the flyer who bails out over water; and it has a compartment for emergency rations. The bladder and inflated ring keep the wearer from lying face down in the water—as he might if he were unconscious.

servers suggest that efforts to provide more democratic government and better living conditions would be the best way for Chiang to fight against Communism. It is doubted, on the other hand, that his military forces can make much headway against Communist guerrilla fighters.

Chiang is ready to take the risk, however, and he is also trying to strengthen his own position in China's Nationalist government. He has long held a number of key posts, including the Presidency. In addition, he has recently taken over the Office of Premier, formerly held by his brother-in-law, T. V. Soong.

Supreme Court Ruling

What is the long-range meaning of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the case involving John L. Lewis and his coal miners' union?

For one thing, it means that when Congress gives the President power to take over an industry in an emergency, workers and union officials in such an industry can be prevented from striking by court order. A few years ago, Congress passed the war labor act, giving the President authority to seize essential industries threatened or crippled by strikes. Mr. Truman still has this power, but it will end next July 1.

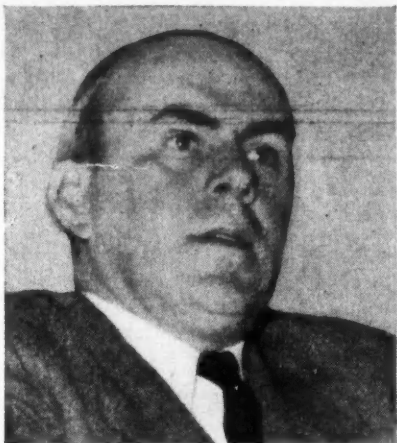
Between now and then, it is thought unlikely that the coal miners will go out on strike again. From then on, however, they could do so without danger of court punishment.

Some observers think that Congress may, before July, pass a law to take the place of the war labor act. This new law, it is said, may provide that the President can seize an essential industry in time of peace as well as in war if the public interest requires such action; that is, if a strike is threatening the national welfare.

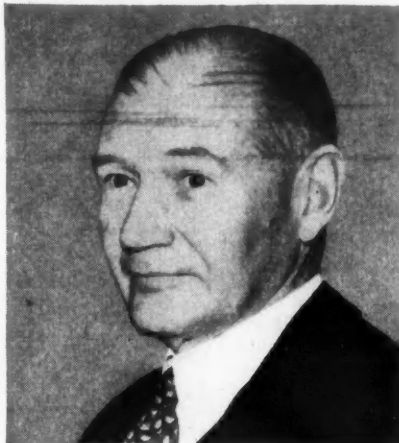
If such a measure is proposed in Congress, it will have strong support and also powerful opposition.

Security Council Chairmen

Every month the United Nations Security Council gets a new chairman. Its chairmanship rotates among the 11 member nations. Dr. Oswaldo Aranha, the Brazilian representative, now holds the job. On April 1 he will turn it over to the Chinese delegate.



A WORLD BANKER AND AN AMBASSADOR. John McCloy (left) is taking over his duties as head of the World Bank; and Lewis Douglas is our new Ambassador to Great Britain.



Dr. Aranha is an experienced politician. In 1930 he helped lead the revolution which made Getulio Vargas President of Brazil. Under Vargas he held various posts, including Minister of Justice and Interior, Minister of Finance, Foreign Minister, and Ambassador to the United States. He had a dispute with Vargas in 1944, and since that time the two men have remained opponents.

Brazil's present chief executive, Eurico Dutra, sent Aranha to the UN Security Council in January.

Livestock Scourge

Our government has joined forces with Mexico's to fight the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease which has been raging among Mexican cattle since last year. Our borders have been closed to Mexican livestock for a few months. Now the Department of Agriculture wants to build a fence running the entire length of the United States-Mexican boundary to help enforce quarantine regulations. Meanwhile, American experts are doing everything they can to help stamp out the dreaded disease south of the border.

Foot-and-mouth disease is often fatal to the animals it strikes. Even when its victims do not die, they suffer intense pain and lose weight rapidly. Milk production drops sharply among afflicted dairy cattle.

Although most common among cattle, foot-and-mouth disease can also strike hogs, sheep, and goats. It is very contagious and there is no known

cure for it. The only way to stamp out an epidemic is to kill all infected animals. An outbreak of the disease in the United States, lasting from 1914 to 1916, made it necessary for us to destroy about 170,000 animals.

Foreigners Study Here

There are now 15,000 foreign students in American colleges and other schools of higher learning. This number is a record, and marks an increase of 4,500 students over the number who came last year.

The American Republics have almost 5,000 young people here. The country sending the largest number is Canada with 2,500 students, and China is second with 1,500 students. The greatest increase is found in the number coming from the Near and Middle East. These countries, together with India, have 1,800 students in American institutions.

Sky Photographer

The U. S. Army Air Forces are continuing to send rockets up "into the wild, blue yonder" to take pictures and to gather scientific information. In the latest of these experiments, conducted a few days ago from a base in New Mexico, one of the missiles was sent 100 miles into the air to photograph the earth and heavens in color and to gather more facts about the upper air.

The cameras and other equipment for the test were placed in a container within the rocket. At a certain point in the missile's upward journey, the container was blown away from the shell. A set of two parachutes automatically opened and the container drifted slowly toward the earth. As it descended, the instruments inside went about their work of taking pictures and recording information which scientists want.

Disputes Within Parties

The political party with a majority in Congress has the responsibility of developing a program for dealing with national problems. The party out of power can sit back and criticize, but the majority organization must act, must decide what to do. Differences of opinion frequently develop as the majority tries to deal with important issues.

When the Democrats were in power, splits developed in their ranks. Now the Republicans are having the same trouble. There are disputes among

them on a number of issues. Party leaders are divided on such issues as labor legislation, tariff policy, loans to foreign nations, the reduction of military expenses, government spending in general, taxation, and the control of atomic energy.

These divisions are understandable, for people naturally disagree at times even though they belong to the same political organization. The Republican troubles are more pronounced because of the fact that a presidential candidate is to be nominated next year.

Two of the men frequently discussed for the GOP nomination, Robert Taft of Ohio and Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, are leaders in the Senate. There is rivalry between the supporters of these men, and this sometimes leads to disagreement on matters of party policy.

Young Scientists

Heading a long list of winners in the annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search, conducted through Science Clubs of America, are two 16-year-olds, Vera Demerec of Huntington, New York, and Martin Karplus of Newtonville, Massachusetts. Each of these students has received a \$2,400 four-year scholarship for continued study in the field of science. Miss Demerec won her prize because of brilliant work in the study of fruit flies. Research on birds brought recognition to Mr. Karplus.

The accomplishments of these students serve to illustrate the contribution which immigrants from other



THEY HAVE WON \$2,400 scholarships. Martin Karplus (left) of Newtonville, Massachusetts, and Vera Demerec of Huntington, New York, placed first in the 1947 Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Both are 16-year-old high school students.

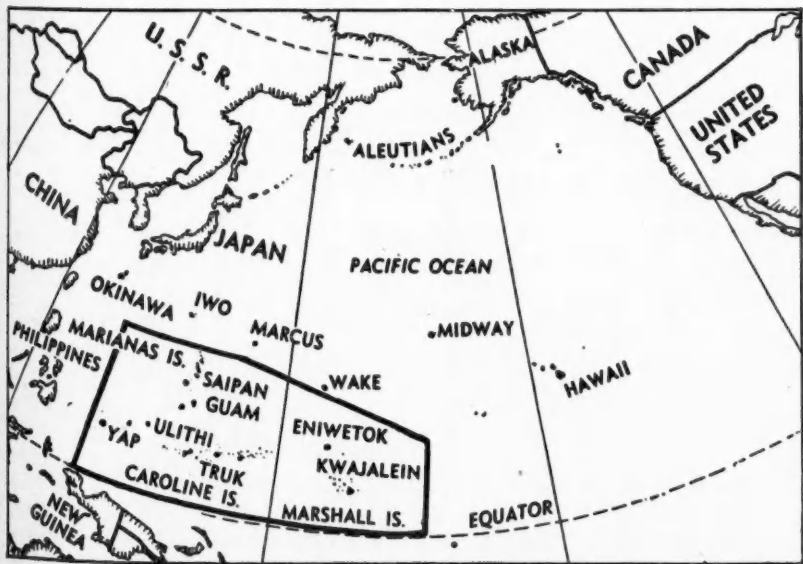
lands are making in America. Miss Demerec's parents came from foreign countries, Russia and Yugoslavia. Karplus was born in Austria.

Scholarships ranging in value from \$100 to \$400 went to 38 other high school students who have done outstanding work in science.

Swanky Tour

John Charles Thomas, the famous singer, will tour the United States next year in a private Pullman car. Mr. Thomas, it is reported, will be the first artist to travel in this manner since Paderewski retired.

The special car will be about 86 feet long. It will have two bedrooms, a connecting shower, and compartments for the singer's manager, accompanist, and maid. Galley quarters will accommodate a chef and a steward. A piano will go in the lounge. The tour will start in San Diego and include nearly every large city in the United States.



PACIFIC ISLANDS wanted by the United States. Having wrested them from Japan in the fight from Guadalcanal to Tokyo, our country is asking the United Nations for custody of the islands in the enclosed area on the map.

World Crisis

(Concluded from page 1)

we. The next war might shock the human race back into sanity; it is more likely to leave all nations coarsened and barbarized still further, with more wars to come."

The "next war," to which Mr. Davis referred has come and gone, and there is no doubt that it has carried civilization farther downgrade. To many millions now living, 1938 looks like paradise, and yet they keep on slipping.

How long the world will continue to slip, how far downward it will go, no man can tell. Everything depends upon the policies which governments and peoples adopt. It depends to a considerable extent upon American policies, for the United States is the strongest and most fortunate of all nations. And the wisdom of American

ing. However that may be, it is plain that England can no longer carry the torch of democracy and western ideas in Europe.

France is also weak and cannot take on large responsibilities in international affairs. Germany and Japan are occupied by the war victors. Italy is defeated and helpless.

So today an unusual situation prevails. The only great world powers are the United States and Russia, and these two nations differ sharply in their economic and political systems. One practices communism and dictatorship; the other, capitalism and democracy. This makes cooperation between the "Big Two," in dealing with world problems, extremely difficult but not necessarily impossible.

3. Instruments of mass destruction have been devised. Through the use of atomic bombs, rockets and disease

colored people far outnumber the whites. Their independence demands are coming at a time when the white nations have been weakened by war and are hard put to it to take care of themselves.

The "rising tide of color" may lead eventually to better conditions in regions now backward. It may lead also to more satisfactory race relations. But it is quite possible that the movements now afoot may be attended, for many years, by serious disturbances, some of which may result in widespread conflict.

5. In most of the world there is a strong trend toward government ownership or control of industries. The trend is away from private enterprise as we know it in the United States. The New York Times, after conducting a survey of 22 nations, makes this report:

In the light of its investigations in 22 nations the New York Times makes this statement:

"The prospects for the survival of the competitive free enterprise system outside the Western Hemisphere seem covered with uncertainty in view of the growth of nationalization under various forms of socialism and communism."

The United States is the one great nation which holds firmly to a system of free enterprise, of capitalism, and the private ownership of industry. Whether we like it or not we must compete with countries which are going in the other direction. We must compete and learn to get along with economic systems very different from our own.

This means that we Americans must strive harder than ever before to make our system an unquestioned success. We must prove to the world that it works well; that it provides the best hope of maintaining stability and progress.

We have briefly reviewed the tremendously important developments which are under way in the world today. Around each of them scores of problems have arisen. What we should do about these problems, what policies our government should adopt, what you, the readers of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, should think about them, this article does not undertake to say or advise.

All Must Help

It should be clear, however, that fateful decisions must be made and that all citizens, of all ages should, in a spirit of patriotism, prepare to help in determining what the decisions shall be. During the war nearly all the people spent much time each week in furthering the war effort. Equal time should be spent today in the effort to meet the challenge of this critical period.

In the schools there should be serious and sustained study of national and international problems. There should be full and free discussion. Opposing points of view should be carefully and objectively examined. The bigger the issue, the greater is the necessity for truth-seeking study. Study and free discussion are most needed in cases where opinions are sharply opposed. That is the way of democracy.

Secretary of State Marshall, having in mind the crises our country must meet, appealed in his recent address for an intensive program of civic education. Speaking to the students of America, he said:

"You should fully understand the special position that the United States now occupies in the world, geographically, financially, militarily, and scientifically, and the implications involved—the development of a sense of responsibility for world order and security, the development of a sense of overwhelming importance of this country's acts, and failures to act, in relation to world order and security."

By WALTER E. MYER.

Tommy Gilbert is a lucky 10-year-old boy, for he is attending the spring training camp of his hometown baseball team, the St. Louis Browns. Tommy, a victim of infantile paralysis, was selected from a group of hospital patients to make the trip, with all expenses paid. He went to the camp, at Miami, Florida, with "Muddy" Ruel, manager of the Browns.



UNCLE SAM IS in a better position than any other country to take the lead as nations strive for peace and progress

policies will depend in great part upon you, the young people of our country.

2. The great powers have declined in number. Most of the time during the period of modern history there have been a number of powerful nations, each capable of exerting influence in the settlement of international problems. Before the recent war seven nations could be listed among the great powers. They were the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Japan and Italy.

We still speak of the "Big Five," the "Big Four," or the "Big Three," but as a matter of fact all but two have become so weak that they no longer rate as great powers.

The British Empire, which has long played such a mighty role in world diplomacy is at last breaking up. India is to have independence next year. Burma is following the same road. The British are planning to get out of Egypt, are trying to give up Palestine, have asked the United States to take over in Greece. They are being forced to give up the positions which they have held as a protection of their "life line" to the East. They are greatly reducing the size of their Navy.

The British homeland is in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Everyone is wondering whether the people of the island can take care of themselves and maintain a decent standard of liv-

germs, whole populations may be wiped out. This could be the most important of all the recent developments, for these newly invented agencies of warfare may change the whole course of history.

If effective measures of control are not adopted, these weapons may destroy a great proportion of the human race. If, on the other hand, the full energies of science are turned to peaceful uses, they may revolutionize industry and bring us to higher standards of living than the world has ever known.

"Mankind is at the crossroads"—we have heard these words so many times that they may make little impression on us. But the fact is that we do stand at the crossroads, and the future of civilization depends upon the wisdom of policies which nations may adopt with respect to atomic energy and other powerful forces now in the hands of men.

4. The colored populations of the world are rising in discontent against white rule. A wave of dissatisfaction is spreading from southeastern Asia to Egypt, thence across northern Africa to the Atlantic. Flames of revolt have raged in the East Indies and Indo-China. India is winning independence. China is breaking away from the guidance of western nations.

The significance of this movement is apparent when we reflect that the

"Canada appears to be the only one in which private enterprise can be said to be functioning today with anything like the freedom from government controls that obtains in the United States."

Here are illustrations of the trend as seen by the Times correspondents: In Russia the government owns all but a few unimportant industries. Private ownership seems to be on the way out in Hungary. In Czechoslovakia the government has taken over 70 per cent of all industry, and may go further. In Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania, industry is being completely taken over by government, and "private enterprise is fighting a losing battle."

Sweden is slowly but surely adopting government ownership for big business and industry, in spite of strong opposition from businessmen, bankers, and the cooperative movement. The British plan to leave the greater part of all industry in private hands but many controls and restrictions are to be put on business.

France has a nationalization program, though "the government is going slow in the elimination of free enterprise." . . . "The trend is away from private enterprise toward some form of state control in Italy. The Spanish government's declared policy is to encourage private enterprise, but the tendency for eight years has been increasingly toward controls."

Readers Say—

I do not believe that we should have compulsory military training. If the armed forces are made attractive, there will be enough volunteers for an efficient force.

Much of the time, effort, and money spent on training for war should be used for improving schools, health, and recreation facilities for young people.

The Security Council of the United Nations must be able to say how much military power each country should have, and it must be able to enforce its decisions.

JEAN YOUNG,
Princeton, North Carolina.

★ ★ ★

In contradiction to the article "Basketball—Our Own Razzle-Dazzle Sport," which you reviewed, I would like to mention that lacrosse is probably the most truly American game that there is. The article you quoted said, "Basketball is the only native American sport." Lacrosse was developed and played by the American Indians centuries before basketball was invented.

ANN CAVIN,
Yakima, Washington.

★ ★ ★

One of the strongest criticisms of Nazi Germany was her racial and religious intolerance. Many American people do not realize it, but we are showing a decided inclination to follow this same Nazi philosophy.

If we, as Americans, are going to keep up the standards established by our forefathers in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other historic documents of our country, we must guard against intolerance. Unless all groups work together, the United States as we know it will not stand.

JOYCE KRIESEL,
Havana, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

A letter from three students in Dorchester, Massachusetts, said that the trouble in Palestine would cease if the British would remove their troops.

We would like to point out that the Arabs and Jews had a similar conflict in French-occupied Lebanon. The French removed their forces, and the trouble grew worse. We believe that Great Britain is a stabilizing force in the Holy Land, and if she withdraws the turmoil will break into a real war.

STEWART MYERS and GENE CRUMLEY,
Wabash, Indiana.

★ ★ ★

I find myself in agreement with those Americans who think the government should concentrate on the atomic bomb and supporting the United Nations at the same time. I would have my country follow no other course. Until we are assured that war will never come again, we cannot give up our military strength. But it is perfectly possible for us to be strong and at the same time to cooperate with the United Nations.

KENNETH R. KURTZ,
Weston, West Virginia.

YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. Can we avoid this *impending* (im-pen'ding) disaster? (a) threatening to occur soon (b) terrible (c) foremost in our minds (d) resulting from carelessness.

2. Do not *jeopardize* (jēp'are-diz) your reputation. (a) boast about (b) endanger (c) depend on (d) underestimate.

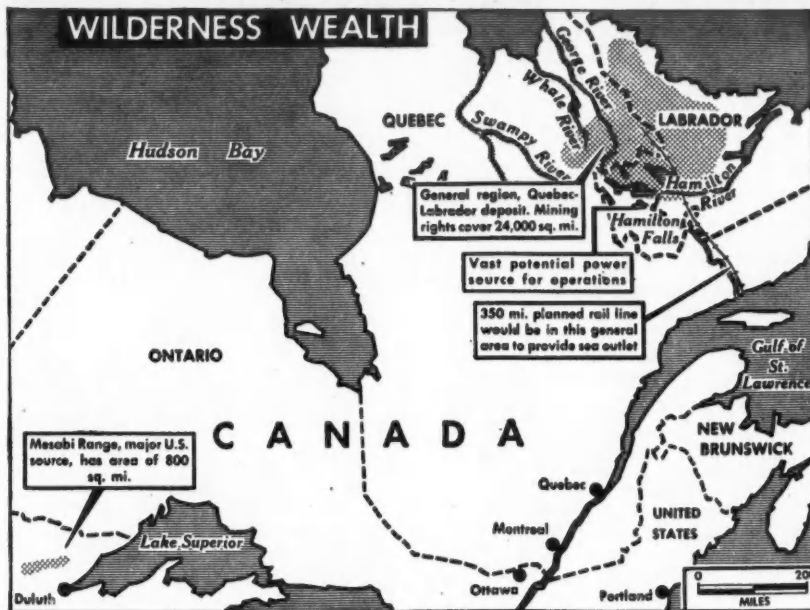
3. We will try to *mitigate* (mīt'i-gate) the effects of the weather. (a) study (b) make less severe (c) explain (d) make use of.

4. That law would have a *baneful* (bān'full) influence. (a) hardly noticeable (b) extremely harmful (c) beneficial (d) communistic.

5. He was *abetted* (ā-bēt'ted) by the others. (a) tormented (b) hindered (c) praised (d) helped.

6. They had a *callous* (kāl'ūs) attitude. (a) generous and kind (b) curious (c) hardened and unfeeling (d) cheerful.

7. Hitler said that democracies were *decadent* (dē-kā'dent). (a) selfish and arrogant (b) unreasonable (c) deteriorating and falling to ruin (d) becoming too powerful.



RICH IRON DEPOSITS being explored in northern Canada and a neighboring region.

Labrador--New Iron Source

Recently Discovered Ore Deposits in the Far North May be the Biggest in Western Hemisphere

A VAST iron ore deposit in northern Quebec and Labrador is now being explored by American and Canadian mining companies. Early tests indicate that this new field may be the greatest iron discovery in North America since our own famous Mesabi Range in Minnesota was first tapped.

An advance party of 88 geologists, miners, and surveyors flew into this area during January. When large landing fields have been cleared, freight-carrying airplanes will bring in bulldozers and heavy mining equipment. Prospecting for iron ore will then get under way in this wilderness region. It will be a "treasure hunt" which Americans will watch with interest, because our supply of high-grade iron ore in the Mesabi Range was seriously depleted during the war.

Scientists have known for a long time that Labrador possessed rich mineral resources. Development of the region was never undertaken, however, because of its severe climate and lack of transportation. Mining companies are now planning to solve this latter problem by building a 350-mile railway from the mining area to the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Power to generate electricity for the project will be furnished by a great

waterfall on the Hamilton River. Factories, schools, churches, and whole new communities may soon be established in this undeveloped north-land.

Although Labrador was the first part of North America discovered by Europeans, it has never before been developed. Norsemen sailed along its rocky, ice-bound coast nearly 1,000 years ago, but they made no permanent settlements there.

Later explorers penetrated Labrador's numerous bays and inlets which rival in beauty the fjords of Norway. They reported that this region possessed great forests, and that fish abounded in its rivers and coastal waters.

Fishing Fleets

In the 16th century, fishing fleets from Spain, Portugal, France, and England visited the Labrador coast and returned home with large catches of cod and herring.

Few white people have ever settled in this barren land. Its population today is less than 5,000, most of whom are fur-clad Eskimos or Algonquin Indians. Their homes are tents made of skins, or rude wooden huts banked with snow and resembling beehives. They live under very primitive conditions.

The main summer occupation for these Labradoreans is fishing. In the winter they engage in the fur trade, trapping silver foxes, marten, mink, beaver, and other valuable fur-bearing animals. Because the soil is poor and the climate is cold, farming is carried on to a very limited extent.

For many years Labrador has been governed by Newfoundland, a British island off the east coast of Canada. Because its population is so small and scattered, Labrador sends no representatives to the Newfoundland Assembly.

The exact boundaries of Labrador were a subject of dispute with Quebec, its nearest neighbor, for many years before 1927. In that year the British Privy Council handed down a decision giving to Labrador all the disputed territory. It is chiefly in this region that rich iron deposits are now being developed.

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

REMEMBER seeing a cartoon showing a number of ostriches with their heads in the sand. Another ostrich came up and said: "Where is everybody?"

Possibly this cartoonist placed ostriches in a false light. I am not well acquainted with their habits, and don't know whether it is true that they hide their heads in the sand at the approach of danger, thinking that what they do not see doesn't exist.

Anyway they have that reputation, and their supposed example is widely followed, even among members of the human race. Many people seem to think that the best way to avoid danger is to shut their eyes to it and pretend that it isn't there.

During this school year, we have received a number of letters criticizing us for speaking of the possibility of war with Russia. The writers of these letters say that war between the United States and the Soviet Union would be a horrible thing, which, of course, it would. Every effort should undoubtedly be made to prevent such a catastrophe. Nobody could be more anxious to prevent it than we are.

The fact is, however, that relations between the two countries are strained. Their foreign policies are in conflict at several vital points—the control of atomic energy, for example. If ways cannot be found to compose the differences and bring about a spirit of compromise and cooperation, the conflicts of policy may result in war.

The threat is real, and it cannot be removed by the pretense that it doesn't exist. The best way to deal with it is to recognize it as a fact. If the Americans and Russians realize that there is danger in the present situation, they can study the points at issue and decide what should be done to avoid trouble. They may solve the problem of living peacefully together if they give full attention to the issues which are holding them apart, and then come to sensible decisions concerning these questions.



Outside Reading

"The 'Twain Should Meet,' by Royce Brier, *Forum*, April, 1946. Asiatic peoples rising against Western domination.

"Can Freedom and Socialism be Reconciled?" by Raymond Daniell, *New York Times Magazine*, February 2, 1947. Britain, under very difficult conditions, hopes to remain democratic while increasing government ownership and control.

"Greece," *Time*, February 24, 1947. The groups which are fighting for control of Greece.

Pronunciations

Akihito—ah kē hē tō
Aranha—ah rah'nyuh
Eniwetok—ē'nē'wē tawk
Hukbalahaps—hook'bahl ah hahps'
Kwajalein—kwah'jah lān
Nagano—nah gah no
Roxas—raw'hahs

Careers for Tomorrow - - The Buyer

THERE is probably no more responsible position in the entire field of retail selling than that of the buyer—the person who selects the merchandise to be sold in the store. Whether or not a store is successful depends to a large extent upon the ability of its buyers to judge what kinds of goods will appeal to the public.

Not all stores, of course, have buyers. In a small establishment, the owner or manager selects goods from samples a salesman brings to him. But specialty shops doing a large business and large department stores often have a number of buyers on their staffs.

Usually the buyer travels to the manufacturing centers to see advance showings of different kinds of goods—jewelry, dresses, shoes, furniture, coats, toys, and so on. He then decides which lines he thinks will sell best in his community, and places his orders. Large stores have one or more buyers for each major department. Smaller places may have only one buyer for all departments.

The buyer must constantly bear in mind the obvious but basic fact that his job is to obtain merchandise that will appeal to his store's customers. He cannot depend entirely on his own taste in making his purchases. Instead, he must be guided by a thorough knowledge of the buying habits of the people who shop in his store.

The buyer must also know how much of a given item his store will need. For instance, he must know whether to order 50,000 or 100,000

pairs of shoes, and how many of these pairs should be in size six, how many in size seven, and so on. The buyer usually gets this information from analyzing the store's sales charts.

In addition to a knowledge of customers' buying habits and of his store's sales experience, the buyer must have good judgment and foresight. Styles in some lines of merchandise change rather quickly and frequently. The



EWING GALLOWAY
A BUYER must know what products his store's customers want

buyer must know which styles his customers are likely to adopt, and which they may reject. An error in judgment may result in the store's being left with a stock of goods that it has to sell at a loss.

After he has obtained merchandise, the buyer decides on the prices at which goods are sold to the public;

and he often helps plan displays, special sales, and advertising. He must also see that the sales staff knows the selling points of the new merchandise.

The field of buying is open equally to men and women, but it is not a field which one can expect to enter as soon as he finishes school. Long experience is necessary, and most buyers start as sales clerks. In this job, a person will not earn a high salary, but he can learn a great deal about merchandise and about people—a background he must have if he is to succeed as a buyer.

Most stores require a high school education for sales personnel, particularly for those looking forward to a career as buyers. A college education is helpful for buyers, particularly if the course includes business administration, psychology, economics, and similar subjects.

Salaries in this field vary. Most experienced buyers earn from \$75 to \$100 a week. In some instances salaries are a good deal higher, and in others they are lower. The buyer often receives commissions and bonuses in addition to his salary.

Russia's capital city, Moscow, is going to have a number of tall buildings in the future. Plans have been approved to erect modern skyscraper hotels and apartment houses in the heart of the city. One 32-story structure and two 26-story buildings will be built first.

Study Guide

World Crisis

1. Give evidence which indicates that civilization is declining in many parts of the world.
2. What does Elmer Davis say about the decline of civilization before the Second World War?
3. Which major powers have become weaker during recent years? Which two are still great world powers?
4. What new weapons of warfare have recently been devised, and how may their use change the course of history?
5. Why is the rising of colored peoples considered a highly important development?
6. What evidence is given by the New York Times to show that communism and other forms of government ownership are rapidly spreading?

Discussion

1. Give reasons why civilization is not declining in the United States as it is in many other countries.
2. Should the United States support and protect the countries in the Mediterranean region from which Great Britain is retreating or plans to retreat?
3. What can the people of the United States do to strengthen our free enterprise system?

Greece

1. What immediate action was taken by our government when the British announced that they could no longer afford to keep troops in Greece?
2. List the main arguments made by people who criticize Great Britain's actions in Greece?
3. Whom does Britain blame for the troubled situation there?
4. What does England think would happen if she withdrew entirely from the Mediterranean country?
5. Why are we concerned about what happens in Greece?
6. Review briefly the three schools of thought which have arisen in answer to the question, "What should we do about Greece?"

Discussion

1. What is your answer to the question as to what we should do about Greece? Give arguments to uphold your position.
2. From your present knowledge, do you think the general world situation has been helped or harmed by Britain's keeping troops in Greece? Explain.

Miscellaneous

1. Briefly describe three discoveries made by the Byrd expedition to Antarctica.
2. What experience in government has our new Ambassador to Great Britain had?
3. Who are the Huks?
4. What "risky step" has Chiang Kai-shek taken recently in the Chinese civil war?
5. How is the chairman of the United Nations Security Council selected?
6. What conditions must be overcome in order to develop the iron deposits of Labrador?

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) threatening to occur soon;
2. (b) endanger; 3. (b) make less severe; 4. (b) extremely harmful;
5. (d) helped; 6. (c) hardened and unfeeling; 7. (c) deteriorating and falling to ruin.

Historical Backgrounds - - by David S. Muzzey

ENGLAND'S rise to imperial power began with the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. After this historic event, Spain declined in strength and gradually lost most of her empire. England became the leading naval power in Europe.

British ships visited every seaport in the world. They carried on commerce, established naval bases along important trade routes, and founded colonies in distant lands. Because England's possessions were found in all parts of the world, it was often said that, "The sun never sets on the British Empire."

England obtained a number of her colonies by discovery and settlement. Her original claim to North America, for example, was based on the voyage of discovery by John Cabot in 1497. This claim was strengthened later by the settlement of colonies in what is now the United States, and by the establishment of trading posts in northern Canada.

The largest territory which England gained by discovery and settlement was Australia. Following Captain James Cook's voyage of discovery (1768-70), the first English colony was established in Australia in 1788. During the years which followed, this entire continent, with many neighboring islands, became a part of the British empire.

The greatest part of the British colonial empire was won, however, through military conquest. England's powerful navy enabled her to defeat her rivals for distant territories. Dur-

ing the early 1700's, for example, when the War of the Spanish Succession was in progress, she captured Gibraltar, "the key to the Mediterranean," from Spain.

England's overseas possessions brought her into conflict with France, the other great colonial power of the 18th century. A number of wars were fought between these two countries, but none was decisive until the Seven Years' War (1756-63). In that conflict, which was known in America as the "French and Indian War," France was defeated and lost nearly all her overseas empire to England. England gained the French possessions in Canada, all the land east of the Mississippi River, and several



FROM "MINUTE PORTRAITS" BY NISENSEN & PARKER
QUEEN ELIZABETH saw Britain emerge as a leading sea power during her reign

West Indian islands. In addition, the French were forced to give up nearly all their rights in India.

During the war with Napoleon early in the 19th century, England increased her holdings still further. She gained possession of the southern tip of Africa (which later grew into the Union of South Africa), the strategic island of Malta in the Mediterranean, and the island of Ceylon off the coast of India.

All the leading European nations, including England, seized parts of Africa during the latter part of the 19th century. After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Egypt became of great importance to England. In 1882, when the Egyptian government was unable to pay its debts, England took possession of the country by force. Egypt has been considered an independent nation since 1922, but British troops have been stationed there to protect the Suez Canal.

In 1898 England assumed control of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, an area larger than Egypt itself.

The most recent additions to the British Empire were made at the end of World War I. They included German East Africa, Southwest Africa, and the former Turkish territories of Iraq, Trans-Jordan, and Palestine. These were not colonies, however, but were given to England as "mandates" by the League of Nations.

Today, the British Empire is in the process of breaking up. This is one of the most important developments of our time.